and every step is taken to see that these people do not cross over. We have alerted the concerned States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Arangil Sreedharan.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Sir, the Question Hour is running out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your question quickly; put a short question.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Sir, the honourable Minister has stated that he has alerted the State Governments. He has also said that they come with sophisticated weapons. Therefore, I would like to know what steps are being taken by the Government to see that the State Government forces are equipped with modern and sophisticated weapons.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Sir, we are trying to modernise the weaponry of the police forces. But the State Governments will have to put up the proposals and then we will do it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

New Techonogy for Heart Bypass Surgery

*386. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new technology for heart bypass surgery has been developed in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce technology in all major Hospitals of the country so as to prevent large number of deaths occuring due to heart bypass surgery; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (d) No new technology for heart bypass surgery has been developed in our country. However, newer techniques and innovations in bypass surgery are better types of conduits using arterial conduits in the form of internal mammary artery as a single implant or double implant. There are other methods like technique of Balloon Angioplasty which has been supplemented by placing of stents (wire mesh) and removal of blocks by atherectomy (block buster) in suitable cases. Also laser angioplasty is being developed. Other major advances are in the Myocardial protection using cold blood cardioplegia as a ante grade or retrograde and also use of warm continuous blood cardioplegia. Balloon Angioplasty has a very high success rate. This facility is now available in a number of hospitals in the country.

Prevention of Tuberculosis

*387. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that B.C.G. vaccine meant for the prevention of Tuberculosis is not found to be effective; and

(b) if so, what efforts are being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) The data from the Tuberculosis Prevention trial in Tamil Nadu conducted by the Tuberculosis Research Centre (TRC) under I.C.M.R. showed that B.C.G. Vaccination did not offer any protection against development of bacteriologically positive pulmonary tuberculosis in Indian subjects above 5 years of age.

However, as BCG has been known to protect against the development of serious forms to Tuberculosis such as military Tuberculosis and meningitis, the vaccine is provided to infants under